

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /060 W

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P 280144Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5901

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USDEL NO 2

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, CIECC, MX

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA INAUGURATES CIECC MEETING WITH

CRITICISM OF QUITO AND RENEWED CALL FOR REFORM

DEPT PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POST FOR INFO

1. PRES. ECHEVERRIA LAUNCHED WEEK-LONG MEETING OF INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE (CIECC) BY VOICING MEXICO'S MISGIVINGS AT HAVING AGREED TO HOST THIS OAS FORUM. ECHEVERRIA CONCEDED THAT OAS DEFECTS WERE NOTHING MORE THAN DEFECTS OF ITS MEMBERS, SINCE IT HAS NO MANDATE APART FROM THAT OF MEMBER NATIONS. "BUT IF IT CAN'T BE A FORUM FOR OUR HONEST DISAGREEMENTS, AT LEAST IT SHOULD AVOID BECOMING A HAVEN FOR PROCEDURAL PHARISEES."

2. REFERRING TO QUITO MFM ON CUBA SANCTIONS, ECHEVERRIA SAID THAT PROCEDURAL DETAILS HAD BEEN PLACED AHEAD OF SUBSTANTIVE WILL OF MAJORITY -- A COMPLETE FAILURE OF ANY SENSE OF PRIORITY. WHETHER QUITO OUTCOME WAS RESULT OF POLITICAL PRESSURES, OF BUREAUCRATIC MANEUVERS, OR OF INADEQUATE LEGAL MECHANISMS IS UNIMPORTANT. WHAT MATTERS, HE SAID, WAS THAT IT BETRAYED THE BASIC SENSE OF REPRESENTATION WHICH OUGHT

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TO GOVERN OAS.

3. ECHEVERRIA ADDED THAT MAJORITY OF OAS ORGANS WERE SO CLEARLY DEFECTIVE THAT MEMBERS WERE NOW SEARCHING FOR ALTERNATIVE MULTILATERAL FORUMS TO CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS. OAS HAD CLEARLY LOST THE CONTEST WITH "POLITICAL PLURALISM" AND WOULD EITHER HAVE TO ADJUST OR DISAPPEAR.

4. TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, ECHEVERRIA WENT ON, WERE UNDERDEVELOPMENT AND DEPENDENCY. UNDER-DEVELOPMENT IMPEDED LDC'S FROM REALIZING THEIR POSSIBILITIES AND VALUES; DEPENDENCY OBLIGED THEM TO ACCEPT A MODEL OF WELL-BEING WHICH THEY COULD NOT ATTAIN AND WHICH WENT CONTRARY TO THEIR OWN INTERESTS. PATTERNS OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION HAD BEEN IMPOSED BY INDUSTRIAL NATIONS WHICH DISTORTED LDC'S ECONOMIES, DEEPENED THEIR SOCIAL DISPARITIES, AND DESTROYED THEIR CULTURES. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, EDUCATION ONLY SERVED TO DEEPEN CONFUSION AND INCREASE DEPENDENCY. TRADITIONAL VALUES WERE IMPOTENT IN FACE OF "ANTI-EDUATIONAL" POWERS OF MASS COMMUNICATION. WHILE ONLY STATE INTERVENTION COULD CHANGE INEQUITABLE ECONOMIC STRUCTURES, A COLLECTIVE EFFORT AMONG PEOPLES WAS REQUIRED TO ELIMINATE COLONIAL MENTALITY.

5. INSOFAR AS OAS WAS CONCERNED, ONLY ANSWER WAS PROFOUND RESTRUCTURING OF INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM. HOUR HAS COME, HE CONCLUDED, FOR CIECC TO REDEFINE ITS PURPOSES AND REVAMP ITS PROCEDURES.

6. EARLIER, MEXICAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION BRAVO AHUJA DECLARED THAT MEXICO AND OTHER LATIN NATIONS WERE SEEKING TO DEFINE A DISTINCT IDENTITY WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN CULTURE AND PERSONALITY. THIS REQUIRED REJECTING FACILE ELITIST NOTIONS OF CULTURE INHERITED FROM WESTERN SOCIETY AND TAKING ACCOUNT OF NATIVE AND AFRICAN HERITAGE. PREVAILING ELITIST VALUES HAD CONTRIBUTED TO INEQUITABLE DIVISION OF CULTURAL WEALTH BETWEEN THE POWERFUL AND THE DEPENDENT, ENABLE FORMER TO MAINTAIN PRIVILEGED STATUS AND COMMANDING ROLE AND TO USE THEIR MONOPOLY OF TECHNICAL ADVANTAGES TO SUBJUGATE WEAKER COUNTRIES. JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SANCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO00813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750030-0701
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750115/aaaaamrk.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECHEVERRIA INAUGURATES CIECC MEETING WITH CRITICISM OF QUITO AND RENEWED CALL FOR REFORM
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, MX, CU, OAS, CIECC, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006